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Chapter 1

HISTORY AND CHRONOLOGY

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Chapter 1

HISTORY AND CHRONOLOGY

The following information on the first humans to live in Tasmania, the Tasmanian Aborigines, is reprinted from a Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery publication, titled 'The Aboriginal People of Tasmania', by Julia Clark.

1.1 THE FIRST PEOPLE AND EARLY EXPLORATION

Aboriginal people have been in Australia for at least 50 000 years. They probably came from Java and perhaps China, crossing the sea to the Australian continent on some kind of watercraft. They then spread to the most fertile areas, arriving in Victoria at least 30 000 years ago.

The Tasmanian Aborigines arrived in Tasmania more than 20 000 years ago. They are the descendants of the first colonists of the Australian continent. By 12 000 years ago, they had become isolated from the rest of Australia by the rising sea flooding the Bass Plain. The creation of Bass Strait brought about the cultural and physical isolation of the Tasmanian Aborigines.

1.1.1 Physical Isolation

The Tasmanian Aborigines are the only people we know who remained totally isolated from other human populations for 12 000 years. As a result of this isolation, they developed certain physical characteristics which have been used to distinguish them from mainland Aborigines. These are, small to medium height, woolly hair and certain features related to the



Manalargenna (A Chief of the eastern coast of Van Diemen's Land). Photo: Tasmap Photographics

size and shape of the skull, eye sockets, nasal opening and palate.

However, all these characteristics are also found in mainland Aboriginal people. We also know now that mainland people do not all look the same. People from the Central Desert are tall and slim. People from Victoria were shorter and very muscular. Different forms of the same general group are called 'regional variations' and are also found in European populations. Tall, thin, blond Scandinavians are very different from short, stocky, dark Mediterranean people.

Regional variation accounts for the differences between Tasmanian and mainland Aboriginal populations.

From the greater number of similarities however, it is clear that both groups are very closely related and had the same ancestors.

1.1.2 Cultural Isolation

Tasmanian Aboriginal culture is different in some ways from mainland Aboriginal culture. Certain things and ideas, which must have been introduced or invented after the Bass Plain became Bass Strait, did not reach Tasmania.

- The dingo arrived in Australia within the last 5000 years, and never reached Tasmania.
- After about 5000 years ago, new stone tools entered the toolkit of all mainland groups. These were very small and finely made. These were not used in Tasmania.
- The technique of hafting stone tools i.e. fitting axes, blades or scrapers with handles, although common on the mainland, was not used in Tasmania.
- Boomerangs and spear throwers must have been invented after Tasmania was cut off, as they were not used in Tasmania. The oldest boomerangs known are 10 000 years old.

Tasmanian Aboriginals did not suffer as a result of not having these things. They had all they needed to live well and happily.

1.1.3 The Earliest Sites

Archaeologists have found that people lived in Tasmania over 20 000 years ago. They may have been here even longer.

Past events leave remains such as bones and charcoal in layers. The deepest ones are the oldest, and the ones at the top are the most recent. These remains can tell us what people were doing in the past. Radiocarbon dating can tell us when they did these things. In this way archaeologists can build up a picture of the way of life of the Aboriginal people who used the site.

Cave Bay on Hunter Island was an inland hunting camp 23 000 - 21 000 years ago. It was abandoned during glaciation 14 000 years ago. Later when the sea reached its present level 6000 years ago, it was re-occupied by people

living off the resources of the sea. Then it was abandoned again 4000 years ago. In its last phase, beginning 2500 years ago, it was again used as part of the coastal economy of Aboriginal people in the north-west. In the 1800s Aboriginal people still visited Hunter Island in summer for wallaby hunting, shellfish gathering and muttonbirding.

Beginners Luck Cave in south-central Tasmania was used by Aboriginal people more than 20 000 years ago.

Just before the beginning of the last period of intense glaciation in Tasmania, Aboriginal people were occasional visitors to the Florentine Valley; they came to hunt kangaroos and other animals on the open grasslands which were then present. They camped in the cave and left thick, crude flake tools and the charred remains of their meals.

20 000 - 15 000 years ago the Ice Age was at its most severe. The people who lived at Kuti Kina then were the world's most southerly population. They hunted wallaby in the open tundra around the cave. Their tools, called 'scrapers', were similar to those used on the mainland at the same time. These kinds of tools were used in Tasmania until the 19th Century.

Darwin glass, which is especially good for making stone tools, and ochre were brought into the area from many kilometres away. So we know that many of the aspects of traditional Tasmanian Aboriginal culture are at least 20 000 years old. These include trade and travel up and down the west coast and inland to the east, and the use of ochre.

15 000 years ago, the climate became warmer and wetter. The rainforest spread into this area. Wallabies live in open country, so they were forced out. The people who hunted them also had to move on, and Kuti Kina was abandoned.

Nicholas Marion du Fresne in 1772 was the first white man to see Tasmania's Aborigines. After a friendly meeting a misunderstanding led to fighting, resulting in several men from both sides being wounded. The size of the population when Europeans arrived in Tasmania is thought to have been about 4000 to 5000. They were not a declining society, but still evolving.

The Aboriginals had no system of recording their own history. Study of their culture was not undertaken until contact with Europeans had erased much of their culture.

1.1.4 Exploration

Not all voyages were undertaken with the aim of exploration, there was a series of voyages to nearby islands which resulted in the unintentional discovery of Australia early in the 17th Century.

1606 Captain William Jansz while exploring the islands of New Guinea in the *Duyfken* crossed Torres Strait unawares and coasted along the west of Cape York Peninsula.

1616 Dirk Hartog journeyed along the western shore of Australia after sailing too far east on the route from the Cape of Good Hope to Java.

1642 Abel Janszoon Tasman, commanding *Heemskirk* and *Zeehan*, sighted the west coast of Tasmania and named his discovery 'Anthony Van Diemensland'. Landings were made on the Forestier Peninsula and near Blackman Bay on the east coast.

1772 The landing of a party from the French Du Fresne expedition at Marion Bay resulted in an affray with the Aborigines.

1773 Tobias Furneaux, in the *Adventure*, became separated from James Cook in the *Resolution* and landed a party at Adventure Bay, Bruny Island.

1777 James Cook anchored the *Resolution* in Adventure Bay on his third southern expedition.

1789 John Henry Cox, on a sealing expedition from England, sailed the *Mercury* from Cox Bight to Maria Island.

1792 William Bligh, on a second voyage to the Pacific to secure breadfruit, charted the south-east coast.

1793 D'Entrecasteaux returned for further exploration of the south-east coast. John Hayes, commanding the Duke of Clarence expedition, explored the Derwent River.

1798 Matthew Flinders and George Bass circumnavigated Tasmania.

1802 Nicholas Baudin, commanding the *Geographe* and *Naturaliste*, explored the south-east coast.

1.2 SETTLEMENT

There were several reasons for the establishment of a settlement in Van Diemen's Land.

The need for new territories to accommodate an increasing number of transported prisoners in the early stage of Australia's settlement was perhaps the main reason. Van Diemen's Land was so remote and insular it was considered an ideal location for a penal settlement; there were few means of escape for the convicts.

1803 Lieutenant John Bowen accompanied by eight soldiers, 29 convicts and 10 free settlers selected Risdon Cove as Tasmania's first settlement which he named Hobart.

1804 Lieutenant-Governor Collins, unhappy with the Risdon site, moved the settlement to Sullivan's Cove. Lieutenant-Colonel William Paterson's settlement party landed at Port Dalrymple (Tamar Estuary).

1806 The Tamar settlement was moved from York Town to the Launceston area.

1807 Thomas Laycock's party crossed the island overland from Port Dalrymple to Hobart.

1812 Lieutenant-Governor Thomas Davey arrived. The northern settlements at Port Dalrymple were made subordinate to Hobart. The *Indefatigable* brought the first shipload of convicts direct from England.

1815 Hobart and Port Dalrymple were declared free ports for the importing of goods. Davey proclaimed martial law against bushrangers. James Kelly circumnavigated the island in a whaleboat.

1816 Hobart Town Gazette was first issued.

1817 William Sorell assumed office as Lieutenant-Governor.

1820 John Thomas Bigge conducted an inquiry into colonial administration.

1822 A penal settlement was established at Macquarie Harbour.

1823 A British Act for the better administration of justice in NSW and Van Diemen's Land was passed.

1824 The Supreme Court was inaugurated. Lieutenant-Governor George Arthur arrived.

1825 The first Launceston newspaper, the *Tasmania and Port Dalrymple Advertiser*, was published. Tasmania was constituted a colony independent of NSW. An Executive and Legislative Council was established. Martial law was proclaimed against Aborigines.

1829 A settlement was established at Emu Bay (Burnie).

1830 George Augustus Robinson began his mission to conciliate the Aborigines. Juries were used for the first time in civil cases. The 'Black Line', the military campaign to round up the Aborigines was commenced. Publication of *Quintus Servinton*, the first novel to be published in Australia. Port Arthur was established as a penal settlement.

1831 The British Government's new land regulations, discontinuing free grants of land and replacing them with land sales, were approved.

1832 The first shipment of Aborigines to Flinders Island occurred. A Caveat Board was established to settle land disputes and to confirm titles. Maria Island was closed as a penal settlement.

1833 Macquarie Harbour penal settlement was closed due to its inaccessibility and harsh natural environment. Convicts were transferred to Port Arthur.

1834 The Henty brothers from Launceston became the first white settlers in Victoria, occupying land in the Portland Bay area.

1835 John Batman sailed from Launceston to Port Phillip as agent for the Port Phillip Association. Tasmania was divided into counties and parishes. The Ross Bridge was opened. Tasmania's population was estimated as 40 172 persons.

1837 Sir John Franklin assumed office as Lieutenant-Governor.

1.3 SELF-GOVERNMENT

1838 Sessions of the Legislative Council were opened to the public.

1840 Convict transportation to NSW ceased; the numbers transported to Tasmania consequently increased. The population was estimated as 45 999 persons.

1841 A Probation System of convict discipline replaced the Assignment System. The Rossbank Observatory for magnetic and meteorological observations was established in Hobart.

1842 Tasmania was created a separate Anglican diocese. Hobart was made a city. Peak year for convict arrivals (5329).

1843 Sir John Franklin was recalled as Governor. He was succeeded by Sir John Eardley-Wilmot.

1844 Norfolk Island penal settlement was transferred from NSW to Tasmanian control.

1845 Six members of the Legislative Council (the 'Patriotic Six') resigned when the Governor used what they considered unconstitutional means to impose increased duties on various goods.

1846 Eardley-Wilmot was recalled. Launceston Church Grammar and The Hutchins Schools were founded.

1847 Sir William Denison, the new Lieutenant-Governor, re-appointed the 'Patriotic Six'.

1848 Tasmania was now the only place of transportation in the British Empire.

1850 The Anti-Transportation League was established. The population was estimated to be 68 870 persons.

1851 Limited representative government; first elections for 16 non-appointed members of the Legislative Council were held.

1852 Payable gold was first found near Fingal. Elections were held for the first municipal councils in Hobart and Launceston.

First Postage Stamps

Van Diemen's Land's first postage stamps were issued in 1853. They were not perforated, and had to be cut from the sheet with scissors. For 40 years the stamps carried a portrait of Queen Victoria, after 1899 a series showing views of Tasmanian scenery was released. These were used until 1913 when they were replaced by an Australian Commonwealth design.

- 1853** The last convicts to be transported arrived.
- 1854** Bad floods disrupted the Colony. A Bill establishing responsible government was passed.
- 1855** Sir Henry Fox Young succeeded Denison, and was accorded the title of Governor. The Constitution Act, enabling responsible government, was passed.
- 1856** Van Diemen's Land was renamed Tasmania. The advent of responsible self-government was followed by the opening of a new bi-cameral Parliament with W.T.N. Champ leading the first government in the House of Assembly.
- 1858** A Council of Education was set up and the Rural Municipalities Act passed.
- 1859** Charles Gould was appointed to undertake a geological survey of western Tasmania. A telegraph link was established with Victoria.
- 1860** The population was estimated at 89 821 persons.
- 1861** Colonel Thomas Gore Brown was appointed Governor. The telegraph cable to Victoria failed.
- 1862** A scheme for a railway between Launceston and Deloraine was promoted.
- 1864** The first successfully transported salmon and trout ova were hatched.
- 1868** Primary education was made compulsory.

- 1869** William Lanny, the last male full-blood Aborigine, died. Sir Richard Dry, the first Tasmanian-born Premier, died. A new telegraph cable was laid to Victoria.



William Lanny.

Photo: Tasmaphotographics

- 1870** The remaining Imperial troops were withdrawn. Population 99 328 (Census).

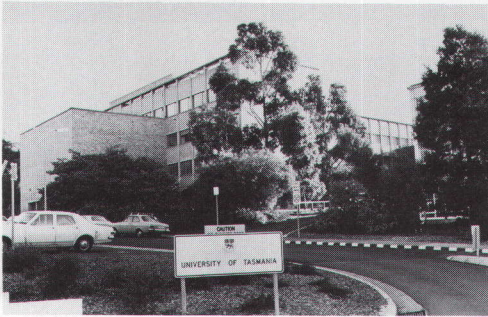
- 1871** Tin was discovered at Mt Bischoff.

Opening of the Launceston-Deloraine Railway

On September 15, 1868, earthworks were commenced by Overend and Robb, contractors to the Launceston and Western Railway Company to provide a rail link between Launceston and Deloraine. The line was opened on February 10, 1871. Due to financial difficulties, the company transferred the line to the government on August 3, 1872.

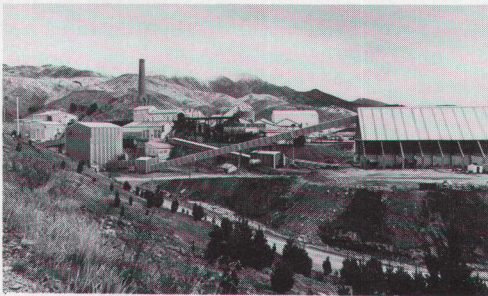
- 1872** A contract was let for building the Tasmanian Main Line Railway.
- 1873** The Tasmanian Main Line Railway Co. commenced construction, marking the start of an economic recovery.
- 1874** There were riots in Launceston in protest at rates levied for the Launceston-Deloraine railway.
- 1876** Race meetings commenced at Elwick. A gold nugget worth \$12 200 was found at Nine Mile Spring. Truganini, the last female full-blood Aborigine died. The Main Line Railway opened for traffic.

- 1877** Port Arthur was closed as a penal settlement.
- 1878** Mineral exploration of the West Coast was increased.
- 1879** A rich lode of tin was discovered at Mt Heemskirk.
- 1880** The first telephone was installed in Tasmania with a line from Hobart to the Mount Nelson Signal Station.
- 1881** Population 115 705 (Census).
- 1883** Discovery of the 'Iron Blow' at Mt Lyell.
- 1885** A Russian-war scare was followed by activity in improvement of defences. The Mt Lyell Prospecting Association was formed.
- 1890** The University of Tasmania was established.



*University of Tasmania at its present site, at Sandy Bay.
Photo: Mercury*

- 1891** The Van Diemen's Land Bank collapsed; a deep depression ensued.
- 1892** The Mt Lyell Mining Co. was established.



Mt Lyell Mining Company.

Photo: Mercury

- 1896** Tattersalls Lottery was established by George Adams.

'Black Friday' 1897

At least 6 people and hundreds of animals were killed and an unrecorded number of houses and other buildings destroyed when a 3-day bushfire reached its peak. The fires began on Mt Wellington and quickly spread south. An outbreak at Colebrook also occurred.

- 1898** Tasmanians voted four to one in favour of Federation at a poll.
- 1899** The Southern Cross (Borchgrevinck) expedition departed Hobart for the Antarctic.
- 1900** The Tasmanian contingent to fight in the Boer War departed.

1.4 FEDERATION

- 1901** The Commonwealth was proclaimed; polling was held for the first elections to the Federal Senate and House of Representatives. Population 172 475 (Census).
- 1903** The celebration of 100 years of settlement was cancelled because of a smallpox epidemic in Launceston.

Women's Vote

Suffrage was extended to women on February 29, 1904, although they remained ineligible to stand for parliament. It was not until February 14, 1922 that women became eligible for election to Parliament on the same terms as men. Voting was made compulsory for both sexes in 1928 and in 1931 enrolment was made mandatory. In 1948 Margaret McIntyre became the first Tasmanian woman to win a parliamentary seat, in the Legislative Council.

*Margaret McIntyre.
Photo: Parliamentary
Library*



- 1905** Experiments in wireless telegraphy between Tasmania and the mainland were undertaken.
- 1907** A new Public Library opened in Hobart, built with a gift from Andrew Carnegie.
- 1909** Irish blight wiped out the State's potato crop. The State's first Labor Government under John Earle was elected.
- 1912** A fire at the North Lyell Mine, Queenstown, trapped miners underground, 42 died.
- 1914** The first aeroplane flight in Tasmania occurred. Tasmania's first contingent to fight in the Great War departed. The Hydro-Electric Department was formed; the Government purchased a private hydro-electric power scheme and commenced a policy of encouraging high-energy-using companies to set up in Tasmania.

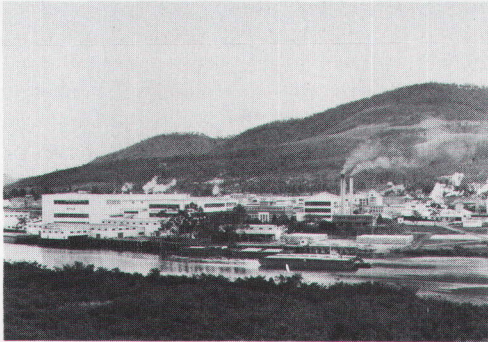
1.5 1915 TO 1927

- 1915** Serious bushfires occurred.
- 1917** The Electrolytic Zinc works at Risdon and the Snug carbide works were established.
- 1918** The Great War ended.
- 1919** Frozen meat was exported for the first time.
- 1920** Edward, Prince of Wales, visited. Cadbury's purchased a site at Claremont for a chocolate factory.
- 1921** Population 213 780 (Census).
- 1922** The Waddamana power station was completed.
- 1924** Superphosphate was first manufactured in Tasmania by the Electrolytic Zinc Co. at Risdon.
- 1925** Osmiridium fields were discovered at Adamsfield.
- 1927** An inquiry into a proposed bridge over the Derwent at Hobart was held. The Duke and Duchess of York visited Tasmania.

1.6 THE DEPRESSION YEARS

- 1929** Automatic telephone facilities were introduced to Hobart. Economic depression and serious floods affected Tasmania.
- 1930** Export prices fell to half the 1928 levels. The Australian pound was devalued so that £1 sterling equalled £1/5s.
- 1931** The Depression continued - the federal basic wage was cut by 10 per cent. An austere Premier's Plan included a conversion loan to reduce the rate of interest on internal federal debt by 22 ½ per cent. Senior Ministers, including J.A. Lyons from Tasmania resigned from the Scullin Government. Following the carrying of a vote of no-confidence in the Government, elections were held at which the Scullin Labor Government was swept from office. Lyons led the opposition United Australia Party to victory.
- 1932** Joseph Lyons was sworn in as Prime Minister.
- 1933** A Commonwealth Grants Commission was appointed to inquire into the affairs of claimant States.
- 1934** Thirty-five years of continuous Labor Government in Tasmania began with the election of the A.G. Ogilvie Ministry. The second phase of hydro-electric development commenced at Tarraleah and Butlers Gorge.
- 1936** Tasmania was linked with Victoria by a new sub-marine cable.
- 1937** An epidemic of poliomyelitis occurred. Economic recovery resulted in five shillings 'prosperity loading' being added to the federal basic wage.
- 1938** A paper mill using native hardwoods was established at Burnie. The first turbines began operating at the Tarraleah power station.
- 1939** World War II began. Prime Minister Lyons died in office.
- 1940** Tasmanians sailed for the Middle East with the Australian 6th, 7th, and 9th Divisions.

1941 Newsprint production began at Boyer on the Derwent. Tasmanians sailed for Malaya with the Australian 8th Division.



*Australian Newsprint Mills, Boyer.
Photo: Tasmaphotographics.*

- 1942** Uniform federal income tax commenced.
- 1943** The floating-arch Hobart Bridge opened for traffic.
- 1944** Pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) income taxation was introduced from 1 July.
- 1945** World War II ended.

1.7 POST WORLD WAR II

- 1946** The Legislative Council rejected a bill to grant Federal Government price control powers for three years.
- 1947** 'Displaced persons' commenced arriving from Europe. Population 257 078 (Census).
- 1948** A forty-hour week was awarded to most workers from 1 January. The High Court rejected as unconstitutional the *Commonwealth Bank Nationalisation Act, 1947*. Tasmanians voted 'No' almost two to one in a referendum denying Federal Government power over prices and rents. The Legislative Council's denial of Supply forced the dissolution of the House of Assembly - the Cosgrove Ministry was returned to power.
- 1949** Compulsory chest x-rays were introduced in the fight against tuberculosis. The Theatre Royal was purchased by the Government.
- 1950** Federal petrol rationing ended. Dissolution of the House of Assembly was granted by the Governor and the Cosgrove Ministry was returned to power.
- 1951** In a referendum to give Federal Government powers in regard to communism, the 'No' vote prevailed, although Tasmanians expressed a slight preference for 'Yes'.
- 1952** A single licensing authority was established for hotels, clubs etc. The State's free hospital scheme ceased.
- 1953** The Arbitration Court abandoned the system of quarterly adjustment of the federal basic wage. State wages boards suspended quarterly basic wage adjustments.
- 1954** A bill was passed to resolve deadlocks in the House of Assembly. The Metropolitan Transport Trust was formed.
- 1955** The Bell Bay aluminium plant and the Trevallyn and Tungatinah power schemes were opened.
- 1956** The State wages board restored the 'cost-of-living' adjustments effective from 1 February but later suspended them. The EZ Company's sulphate of ammonia plant was opened. The Centenary of self-government was celebrated.
- 1957** The Legislative Council rejected a bill giving aid to private schools.
- 1958** The Rivers and Water Supply Commission was established, together with the Public Service Tribunal as an industrial authority.



Theatre Royal.

Photo: Mercury

1959 The first election to fill 35 seats in the enlarged House of Assembly resulted in Labor being re-elected. The *Princess of Tasmania* commenced a roll-on roll-off ferry service from Melbourne to Devonport.

1.8 1960 TO 1980

1960 Liapootah power station was commissioned. The Zeehan-Strahan railway closed. The Inland Fisheries Commission was created. The first Tasmanian telecasts began.

1961 The *William Holyman*, a cargo container vessel, entered Bass Strait trade. The Legislative Council rejected equal pay legislation.

1962 The Catagunya power scheme turbines began producing electricity. State Wages Boards granted three weeks annual leave. State subsidies were announced for municipal fluoridation schemes.

1963 The Federal Court increased margins by 10 per cent and granted three weeks annual leave. The Universities Commission recommended a medical school for the Tasmanian University. The Mt Lyell railway, from Queenstown to Strahan, closed.

1964 The Tasman Bridge opened for traffic. Hobart's water supply was fluoridated. Glenorchy was raised to city status.

1965 Provisional driving licences were introduced. A Dental Nurse scheme for schools was implemented.

1966 Decimal currency was introduced on 14 February. The Burnie-Launceston co-axial cable was completed. Equal pay for certain State Public Service females was granted. Breathalyser tests were approved for use by police. Subscriber-trunk-dialling was introduced.

1967 The bush fire disaster of 7 February resulted in 62 deaths and over 1000 houses were destroyed. The Federal Arbitration Commission abolished the basic wage and substituted a total wage concept but the basic wage was retained in State awards. The Mt Cleveland tin mining town of Luina was completed.

1968 The Batman Bridge across the lower Tamar was opened. The Federal Government granted a subsidy for apples and pears exported to the UK and other countries. Full adult suffrage for Legislative Council elections from 1 July 1969 was introduced. Capital punishment was abolished.



Batman Bridge. Photo: Tasmaphotographics

1969 A State election resulted in the election of 17 ALP, 17 Liberals and one Centre Party member (Mr Kevin Lyons). Mr Lyons combined with the Liberals to form a coalition government, ending a 35-year Labor rule in Tasmania. The Full Bench of the Federal Arbitration Commission granted equal pay to females performing equal work. The copper smelter at Mt Lyell was closed; concentrate was sent to Japan and Port Pirie (SA) for treatment.

1970 The first pyrites from Rosebery were railed to the Burnie sulphuric acid plant. The EZ Co. commenced a \$6.3 million residue treatment plant. Parliament legislated to introduce permanent daylight saving.

1971 APPM Ltd's Wesley Vale paper plant was opened. The Population Census count was 390 413 persons.

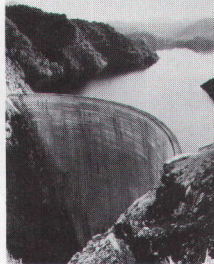
1972 K.O. Lyons resigned cabinet portfolios and ended the Liberal-Centre Party Coalition. The ANL vessel *Princess of Tasmania* made her final trip to Tasmania.

1973 The Bell Bay rail link, the first legal casino in Australia, Wrest Point and the \$121 million Mersey-Forth HEC scheme were officially opened. Storeys Creek tin mine closed down. Tasmania voted in line with other Australian States on prices and incomes referenda; 'No' to both.

Blythe Star Sinking

The Transport Commission's *Blythe Star* was lost at sea. After drifting for eight days in a life raft, seven survivors were located at Deep Glen Bay on the Tasman Peninsula. Two of the 10-man crew died when the vessel sank and a third died shortly after the life raft reached shore. The 350 ton ship was bought by the State Government for the King and Flinders Islands shipping runs.

1974 Workers under State Wages Boards' awards were granted four weeks annual leave; women were awarded equal pay. The Gordon Dam was completed. A no-fault third party insurance scheme was implemented.



*Gordon Dam.
Photo: HEC*

1975 Tasmanian suburban rail services ceased. The bulk ore carrier *Lake Illawarra* rammed the Tasman Bridge resulting in a 128-metre gap and 12 deaths. The TAB began operating. Transmission of colour television programs commenced in Tasmania. Hotels were allowed to open for Sunday trading.

1976 Sea cargo to and from Tasmania was subsidised by a freight-equalisation scheme.

1977 The Federal Government confirmed Kingston as the site for Australia's new Antarctic Division Headquarters. The Tasman Bridge was re-opened.

1978 The Tasmanian railways came under full control of the Australian National Railways Commission. All regular passenger train services in Tasmania ceased.

1979 The State Government expanded the South-West Conservation area to more than 20 per cent of the State's total area. The State's first Ombudsman was appointed. Tasmania's Parliamentary Hansard was introduced. A claim that a new Labor MHA in Franklin, Michael Aird, had breached the

Electoral Act by spending more than the statutory limit of \$1500 on his election expenses began the so-called 'Electoral' or 'Constitutional Crisis'. The HEC released a report which recommended a \$1.36 billion power development scheme involving the Lower Gordon, Franklin and King Rivers.

1.9 THE NINETEEN-EIGHTIES

1980 East-West Airlines was given approval for the only direct Hobart-Sydney air service. Public pressure resulted in the State Government deciding to save the Franklin River by opting to flood the Gordon at its junction with the Olga, the Gordon-above-Olga power scheme, and to construct four separate schemes on the King River. The first direct flight from Hobart to Christchurch was made by Ansett Airlines. The Upper House Select Committee recommended the HEC's proposed Gordon-below-Franklin scheme and rejected the Government proposed Gordon-above-Olga scheme legislation.

1981 Bushfires at Zeehan destroyed 40 homes. The State Government placed a statewide ban on Saturday afternoon trading by companies employing more than 100 people. The Federal Government introduced a 10 per cent subsidy for airfares to and from the State. The Premier, Mr Doug Lowe, was deposed and Mr Harry Holgate replaced him as Premier. A referendum concerning the State's next power development resulted in a large informal vote but most supported the Gordon-below-Franklin option.

1982 The South-West National Park, the Franklin-Lower Gordon Wild Rivers National Park and the Cradle Mt-Lake St Clair National Park were nominated by the Federal Government for the World Heritage List; both proposed dam sites lay within the nominated area. The World Heritage Commission placed the areas on its list despite State Government opposition. The Liberal Party formed a Government in its own right for the first time in Tasmania's history. Legislation for the \$453 million Gordon-below-Franklin power scheme passed through Parliament. The Federal Labor Party announced a no-dams policy for a Federal Labor Government. The Senate Select Committee on South-West Tasmania came out against building the dam.

1983 The Labor Party led by Mr Hawke won the Federal election. Regulations under section 69 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act* 1975, gazetted by the Federal Government, made any further work on the Gordon-below-Franklin dam illegal. A Commonwealth writ, seeking an injunction to permanently stop work on the proposed Gordon-below-Franklin dam, and a Tasmanian writ seeking a declaration from the High Court that regulations under which the Commonwealth was acting were constitutionally invalid, were filed in the High Court. The High Court ruled that the Gordon-below-Franklin dam could not go ahead. The lowest temperature yet recorded in Tasmania, -13°C , was registered. The State Government sped up work on access roads for the \$460 million Henty-Anthony and King River hydro power schemes. The Legislative Council approved the \$549 million King and Anthony Power schemes. The new Devonport \$6.5 million jet airport was officially opened.

1984 The \$48.5 million Bowen Bridge, and the Wrest Point Convention Centre were opened. Fire caused approximately \$1 million damage to Hobart's historic Theatre Royal. Mr Hawke and Mr Gray signed an agreement for \$270 million compensation to Tasmania for the loss of the Gordon-below-Franklin power scheme. Tasmania's first mobile breath analysis units were brought into use. The Launceston International Velodrome, costing \$6 million was officially opened.

1985 The Northern Midlands Environmental Protection Committee issued a Supreme Court writ on the Hydro-Electricity Commission in an effort to hinder survey work on the proposed coal-fired thermal power station at Conara. The State Government revealed details of a \$22 million West Coast road link between Smithton and Zeehan. The municipalities of St Leonards and Lilydale amalgamated with the City of Launceston. Hobart's \$13 million CSIRO Marine Laboratories were officially opened. The 10 per cent Commonwealth air fare subsidy for travel between Tasmania and Melbourne was abolished. The Bass Strait ferry, *Empress of Australia* made its final voyage from Devonport, it was replaced by the *Abel Tasman*. The State Government declared that 24 November would be known as Tasmania Day. Qantas joined the Tasmania-New Zealand link with its first flight from Auckland to Hobart.

1986 The Launceston City Council received \$3.3 million from the State Government to help overcome the Council's cash problems caused by redundancy payments associated with the amalgamation of St Leonards and Lilydale municipalities with the City of Launceston. Archaeologists discovered Tasmanian Aboriginal rock paintings in the South-West believed to be about 20 000 years old. The Liberal Government was re-elected with a majority of three seats, a record 15 MHAs lost their seats. Forestry workers and conservationists clashed at Farmhouse Creek, near Geeveston during an anti-logging protest. The State Government abandoned its controversial fast-track development legislation which deprived Tasmanians of the right of appeal against major planning projects. The State Government and the developers of the Hobart International Hotel agreed to share the cost of replacing controversial pink bricks used in the construction of the hotel with sandstone coloured bricks. The State Government announced the Electrona silicon smelter project would proceed. The Cleveland tin mine at Luina closed. The 1986 Census counted 436 353 people in Tasmania on census night, an increase of 4.2 per cent on the 1981 count. The municipalities of Gormanston and Queenstown amalgamated to create the new municipality of Lyell. The Federal Government proposed to invoke World Heritage legislation to prevent logging in the Lemonthyme Forest.

1987 Wynyard Airport's jet-standard runway was opened. A High Court decision banned logging in the Lemonthyme and Southern Forests of Tasmania. General Sir Phillip Bennett was appointed Tasmania's new Governor. Aboriginal hand stencils dating back to the last Ice Age were discovered in a cave in the Cracroft Valley in Southern Tasmania. The Hobart Sheraton Hotel was officially opened by the Premier.



Sheraton Hotel.
Photo: Don Stephens

Lady Nelson

Tasmania's Bicentenary Tall Ship, the *Lady Nelson* was launched. The original *Lady Nelson* was the first ship to sail west through Bass Strait, in 1800, and the vessel from which Hobart was established in 1803. The new ship, a full sized replica was intended to provide sail training for young Tasmanians.

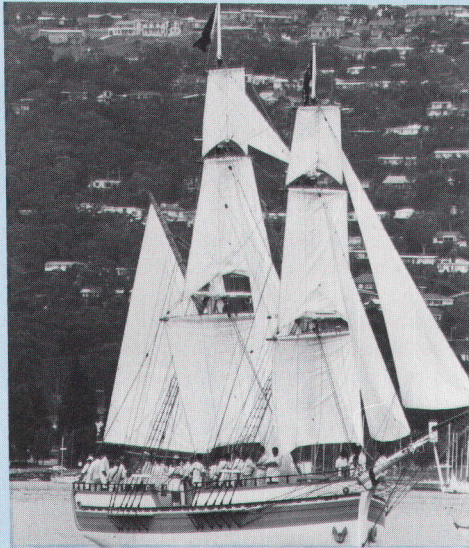


Photo: Mercury

The Australian Conservation Foundation prepared to take the Federal Government's Helsham logging inquiry in Tasmania to court to overturn the decision by the Helsham Commission of Inquiry to free four forest areas in the Lemonthyme southern forests from High Court protection. Department of Environment figures revealed pollution levels in the Tamar and North Esk Rivers posed a huge problem to Launceston. As a result the Launceston City Council announced a clean-up of the rivers and had allocated \$2.5 million to upgrade sewers and treatment plants. The State Government also allocated \$8.4 million over the next four years. Australia's Antarctic supply ship *Nella Dan* sank off Macquarie Island.



Nella Dan.
Photo: Antarctic Division

1988

January

Bicentennial Celebrations



Tall Ships on the Derwent River. Photo: Mercury

The crews of approximately 200 sailing, cruise and naval ships from approximately 20 countries visited Hobart. This was followed by a re-enactment of the landing at Risdon Cove. In October some of the biggest warships in the world including the battleship *USS New Jersey*, the French frigate *Admiral Charner* and the British destroyer *HMS Edinburgh* were in Tasmania. In Hobart, 1000 of the sailors paraded for the bicentennial naval salute.

In June, a chain of more than 60 bonfires around the State was part of a national bicentennial chain.



The *Young Endeavour* was the United Kingdom's bicentenary gift to Australia. Photo: Mercury

Visitors included Queen Elizabeth, the Duke of York, the Crown Prince of Thailand and Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands. The Dutch queen unveiled a sculpture by Mr Stephen Walker symbolising the first sighting of Tasmania by the Dutch explorer Abel Tasman.

February

Bisque won the \$102 500 Hobart Cup. Breaks in three water pipes which carried water to 60 per cent of the city resulted in stringent water restrictions in Launceston for several days. Arsonists were blamed for a spate of serious bushfires which destroyed about 2 000 hectares of coastal bushland in Northern Tasmania.

March

A new ambulance tax on landowners which replaced the former local government ambulance levy, aroused widespread opposition. The State Government lost its High Court challenge to the validity of the Federal Government's legislation preventing logging in the Lemonthyme and Southern forests. The ruling means that the Federal Government can stop logging in an area by nominating it for World Heritage listing. The Archbishop of Hobart the Most Revn Sir Guilford Young, died. Successful candidates in the Hobart City Council elections were: Ald Dee Alty, Ald Barry Fisher and Ald Bruce O'Connor who were all re-elected, and Mrs Darlene Haigh, Dr John Freeman, Mr Ronald Turnor and Mr Robert Bell. Ald Barry Fisher was elected deputy lord mayor. Launceston mayor, Ald Jimmy Tsinoglou was returned unopposed for a second term as mayor and Ald Robin Mckendrick was chosen as deputy mayor. Northern Tasmania's television station, TNT9 was sold for \$40 million to Victorian TV and radio operator Tricom Corporation Ltd.

April

Burnie became Tasmania's fifth city. Legislation was introduced to ban products containing chlorofluorocarbons, which deplete the ozone layer surrounding the earth. The legislation affected aerosol cans and plastic foam trays.

May

The compensation legislation covering all Tasmanian employees, whether government or private, in the event of injury or disease occurring at work or travelling to work passed the Legislative Council. Incapacitated employees are to be paid 100 per cent of their normal wage. The Helsham Inquiry found that five areas of the Lemonthyme and Southern forests qualified for World Heritage listing - Forth River Valley, Cathedral Mountain, Exit Cave, Mt Bobs and Mt Anne. These accounted for only 8 per cent of the 284 000 hectares reviewed by the commission. The Tasmanian Sporting Hall of Fame

was opened. Launceston's \$1.1 million Glen Dhu corridor providing a one kilometre link between the city centre and the Southern Outlet was opened. Mr Don Wing was re-elected for the seat of Launceston and former Queenstown warden Mr Peter Schulz won the seat of Gordon. Mr Hank Petrusma, Hobart, was returned unopposed as the result of Legislative Council Elections.

June

In the Queen's birthday honours list Max Bingham received a knighthood for his services to government and law and cricketer, David Boon, received a MBE. North Broken Hill Holdings Ltd and CRA Ltd merged to create the world's largest zinc producer. It was announced that the



Max Bingham. Photo: Mercury

July

A flu epidemic throughout Tasmanian schools resulted in absenteeism as high as 25 per cent and the closure of some schools. A foreign parasite, *Trichinella spiralis*, believed to have come from illegally imported meats, was found in Tasmanian Devils near Cradle Mountain.

August

Federal Cabinet announced that it would not insist on World Heritage listing if Tasmania agreed to protect 80 per cent of the Helsham Inquiry area, the Lemonthyme and Southern forests, and areas outside the inquiry area will also be barred from logging. A compensation payment of \$40 million was offered. The Tasmanian Government accepted the decision.

September

Launceston accountant Colin Hawkes Room was extradited from Washington DC to face 269 charges of fraud involving \$2.5 million. Devonport became the first northern Tasmanian team to win a Tasmanian Football League premiership when it defeated Glenorchy by 43 points.

October

Tasmania's drought status declared on March 28 was lifted on October 12 after good winter rains and mild winter temperatures supported pasture growth. Farmers had received drought assistance loans worth \$6.4 million from the Tasmanian Development Authority. A \$1 billion Wesley Vale pulp mill to be built by North Broken Hill Holdings Limited and the Canadian firm Noranda Forest Inc. was approved by the State Government. It was expected to contribute \$300 million to export earnings with the State Government receiving about \$11 million annually in royalties from the 1 800 000 tonnes of wood which would produce 440 000 tonnes of bleached draft pulp for export.

Obituary

Mr Mervyn Everett, a former Tasmanian Deputy Premier died. He was elected to the House of Assembly in 1964 and was Health Minister between 1964 and 1969. In 1972, he became Deputy Premier and Attorney-General. He was elected to the Senate in 1974. In 1978, he was appointed to the Tasmanian Supreme Court and then he became a Federal Court judge. In 1984 he was appointed president of the Interstate Commission and revamped Tasmania's Freight Equalisation Scheme and investigated Tasmanian coastal shipping.



Photo: Mercury

November

It was announced that the University of Tasmania will receive \$8 500 000 from the Federal Government to construct its new Institute of Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies building within the next three years. An additional 1000 places at a cost of \$9 000 000 will be created in the State's tertiary institutions during the 1989-91 triennium. The new Roman Catholic Archbi-

shop of Hobart, Dr Eric D'Arcy was installed at St Mary's Cathedral. Legislation introduced in the House of Assembly to approve the Wesley Vale chemical pulp mill provided for the stripping of North Broken Hill's traditional forestry concessions but guaranteed the company a stable wood supply.



Dr Eric D'Arcy.

Photo: Mercury

The Forestry Commission gained tough policing powers including the right to enter NBH property to ensure the joint venturers do not pulp saw logs and are abiding by new management regulations. Pollution levels in the Tamar, North Esk and Mersey rivers remained alarmingly high and parts were unfit for swimming or the taking of fish. Work began south of Perth on a \$2.7 million optic fibre cable to link Northern and Southern Tasmania. Clarence became Tasmania's sixth city.

Forest agreement

In an agreement signed between the Commonwealth and Tasmanian Governments, 80 per cent or 260 000 hectares of the Lemon-thyme and Southern forests as well as the Walls of Jerusalem National Park and the Central Plateau conservation area were to be jointly nominated for World Heritage listing, taking Tasmania's total World Heritage area to 1 029 355 hectares, or 15.2 per cent of the State. A further 100 000 hectares in the Denison Spires region were to become national park under State legislation, with future mining and hydro development allowed.

Concessions:

1. The Federal Government will pay out \$50 million in compensation including \$30 million for forest plantations, \$5 million for training and a special grant of \$8 million for forest work done in the forests.
2. Canberra approved an export licence for the controversial Huon Forests Products venture and agreed to boost Tasmania's annual woodchip export quota by 790 000 tonnes to 3.6 million tonnes a year.
3. The Prime Minister Mr Hawke, reaffirmed his promise of no more forest enquiries in Tasmania and no more World Heritage

listings without the concurrence of the State Government.

4. Logging to be continued in National Estate areas, subject to consultative arrangements in place and proposed.

5. The two wood veneer plants at Boyer and Somerset guaranteed continued operations.

December

Obituary

Lloyd Rees, an artist of international reputation, died in Hobart, aged 93. Born in Brisbane, he lived much of his life in Sydney.



Photo: Mercury

Despite failing eyesight he worked on creating dazzling, luminous landscapes. He worked in his Sandy Bay studio for an exhibition in Paris in 1987 which was the focus of an Australian trade fair.

A \$350 000 observation deck on Mt Wellington was opened. In the Sydney to Hobart yacht race, *Illusion* won handicap honours with *Mirrabooka* the first Tasmanian yacht to finish.

1989

January

The State Parliament approved strict environmental guidelines on the proposed \$1 billion Wesley Vale chemical pulp mill. They included a requirement for a tertiary treatment of plant liquid effluent. The developers admitted that standards for noise and odour could be met but guidelines for purity of effluent were 'tougher than modern technology could handle'.

Despite strong objections the Latrobe Council gave planning approval for the Wesley Vale pulp mill to proceed.

February

A \$16 million contract to build a high-speed 350-passenger, 80 vehicle ferry to connect George Town and Port Welshpool in Victoria was signed between Tas Ferry Services Pty Ltd and International Catamarans.

A Thursday Qantas flight linking Hobart with international connections through Sydney was inaugurated. Tourism and producers of high-value Tasmanian exports such as crayfish and Atlantic Salmon will benefit.

Tasmanian-bred Nakagima won the \$102 500 Hobart Cup.

Agreement was reached between the developers of the Wesley Vale pulp mill, Noranda and North Broken Hill Peko Pty Ltd, and the State Government concerning the environmental guidelines for the mill leaving approval by State Parliament of legislation covering the new environmental guidelines and approval by the Foreign Investment Review Board of Noranda Forests' investment in the project as the final hurdle to the \$1 billion project.

Shykoski won the \$100 000 Winfield Launceston Cup.

The rewritten environmental guidelines for the Wesley Vale Pulp Mill were released with changes being made in four areas - the amount of chlorine dioxide substitution, dioxin emissions, non exemptions for 12 months commissioning period, and odour level at the boundary.

The first sod of the Wesley Vale pulp mill was turned before State Parliament met to approve changes to the environmental guidelines and a month before Federal Cabinet considered the project.

More than 1 200 sheep breeders from 15 countries attended the second World Sheep and Wool Congress in Hobart.



Photo: Mercury

Tasmanian nurses were awarded a new career and salary structure by the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission Full Bench, ending a 12-month campaign by the Australian Nurses Federation.

March

The State Higher School Certificate exam system was attacked for faulty compilation of marks, with 67 new certificates being awarded.

The Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry and the Commonwealth Environment Department as well as the CSIRO scientifically evaluated the environmental effects of the proposed Wesley Vale pulp mill for consideration by Federal Cabinet.

An outbreak of Legionnaires Disease in Burnie resulted in 3 deaths and 26 confirmed cases of the disease. The Burnie division of the North-West General Hospital and the Burnie Civic Centre were confirmed as the sources of the Legionnaires Disease bacteria. An inquiry was held to determine why monthly tests of the hospitals's air conditioning towers failed to detect the bacteria.

North Broken Hill and Noranda Forests terminated negotiations with the Federal Government concerning the Wesley Vale Pulp Mill and announced that the mill would not go ahead. The State Government launched a campaign to find a successor to the failed North Broken Hill - Noranda pulp mill project at Wesley Vale.

April

Cathy Edwards was elected Mayor of Clarence in the first public election of the new city council.

About 25 semi-trailer loads of garbage were collected from the shores of the Derwent River by about 10 000 people in a clean-up campaign organised by Friends of the Derwent.

Hospital Point on the southern shore of York Cove at George Town was selected as the terminal for the new Bass Strait catamaran ferry.

May

A State election was held, nine months before the four-year term was due to complete its course. The Liberal Party won 17 seats, Labor 13 and the Independents 5. After negotiations with the two major parties the Independents signed an accord with the Labor members to form government.

The State Government received \$585.5 million in funds for the provision of government services at the Premiers' Conference, \$7.3 million less than the previous year.

Legislative Council elections were held in the electorates of Tamar, Queenborough, West Devon and Pembroke. Mr John Loone, Mr John Stopp, Mr Hugh Hiscutt and Mr Peter McKay won the seats respectively.

Mr Gray requested that the Liberal minority government be sworn in by the Governor. Labor and Independent members of the House of Assembly stated that they would combine to pass a motion of no confidence in the Gray government at the first sitting of Parliament.

June

The State Government revealed that the cost of cleaning pollution from the Tamar and Derwent rivers would be \$250 million.

Obituary

Former Tasmanian politician and broadcaster, Mr Ray Sherry, died aged 65. Born in Sydney, he served in World War II and moved to Hobart in 1960. He was elected to the House of Representatives in the seat of Franklin in 1969, six years later he was defeated by Mr Bruce Goodluck. Mr Sherry was elected as a State Labor Member for Franklin in 1976 and served his constituency for 2 years.

A Melbourne man was charged with offering a \$110 000 bribe to newly elected Bass Labor MHA Mr Jim Cox to vote in support of the Gray Government when parliament resumed on 28 June. Prominent Launceston businessman, Edmund Rouse, was also arrested.

The Gray Liberal Government faced a vote of no confidence by the Independent and Labor MHAs in parliament. Debate on the motion lasted throughout the night ending with Mr Gray's government being defeated.

Mr Michael Field was sworn in as Tasmania's new premier after the resignation of Mr Gray.

July

ENT's managing director, David McQuestin, appeared in court on charges relating to the attempted bribery of Jim Cox MHA.

The Field Labor Government announced plans to reform the State Public Service by re-

shaping 50 departments, authorities and agencies into 18 super departments.

August

The \$44 million Launceston International Hotel was officially opened.

N W Coast construction company, John De Jong Builders announced its closure. 46 employees were retrenched as a result of the slump in building.

Tasmania's primary export industry was severely disrupted by work bans placed by pilots on domestic airlines. The export industries seriously affected included those involved with seafood and vegetables destined for interstate and international markets.

Former Launceston accountant, Colin Hawkes Room, was found guilty of 193 charges of stealing nearly \$2 million. The 4 month trial was the longest running trial in Tasmanian history. The jury spent more time deliberating than any previous jury and more documents were tabled than in any previous trial.

An industrial dispute involving domestic airline pilots seriously affected Tasmania. Airlines of Tasmania ran additional flights and the *Abel Tasman* allowed the usually-banned foot passengers to board in order to assist stranded travellers. The fresh seafood export industry faced devastation and tourist operators claimed their business had been reduced by 50 per cent.

September

The first 747 flight into Tasmania occurred.

The State Minister for Health, Mr John White, announced a review of conditions at the Royal Derwent Hospital following the findings of the Pettifer Report on Willow Court, a centre for the care of intellectually disabled persons.



Qantas 747 at Hobart Airport.
Photo: Mercury

Amalgamation of Tasmania's three tertiary education institutions involving 7500 students and 640 academic staff began.

North Hobart defeated Hobart 130 points to 100 in the 1989 TFL Grand final.

October

The State Government received seven expressions of interest from companies interested in building a chlorine bleached pulp mill in Tasmania.

The State Government considered setting up its own airline to ease the crippling effects of the pilots' dispute on Tasmanian tourism. The plan was estimated to cost a minimum of \$75 million. The State Government released a list of 25 schools selected for closure.

November

Tasmania's Par Avion airline announced a \$5 million expansion of its services to include daily flights between Launceston and Essendon airport. The first flight left Launceston on 7 November 1989.

Obituary

Mr Bill Neilson, former minister and Premier of Tasmania died, aged 64. William Arthur Neilson was Tasmania's 44th Premier before becoming Tasmania's Agent-General in



Photo: Mercury

London. In 1946, aged 21, he was the youngest Australian ever to be elected to a parliament. As Minister for Education in the 1960's he pioneered many education reforms.

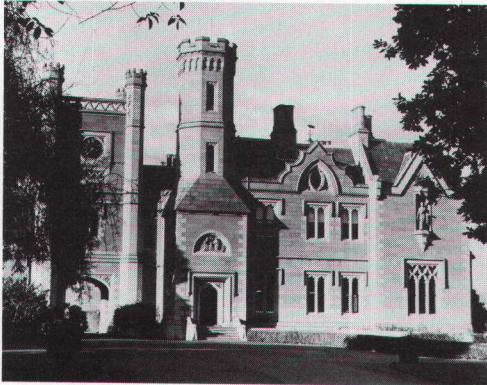
Plans to open Australia's only sub-Antarctic island (Macquarie Island) to tourism were approved.

Miss Tasmania 1990, Rachel White of Devonport, was crowned. Miss Tasmania Fundraiser was Mandy Davey.

The Police and Emergency Services Minister, Mr Wriedt, launched a 'proof of age identification card'. The cards are to be used in the battle against under-age drinking.

December

The first opening of Government House to the public attracted 20 000 visitors.



Government House.

Photo: Mercury

Criminals, the mentally ill, and people under a domestic restraint order will be prevented from owning or buying firearms in Tasmania under tough gun law reforms proposed by the State Government.

All but five of the 19 schools on the State Government's list were saved from closure in an historic deal struck between the Independents and the Legislative Council.

Tasmania held its first Test match at the Bellerive Oval between Sri Lanka and Australia.

The East Coast Douglas-Apsley area was declared a national park.

Ultimate Challenge won the 1989 Sydney-Hobart yacht race on handicap and *Drumbeat* took line honours.

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